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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

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Kinglets Meet Their Meat

A Ruby-crowned Kinglet seeking food ever busily over this leaf, that twig, under a leaf, over a branch—how much a darling of the Gods he is!

Picture then two of them in a bush of Baccharis pilularis, perhaps six feet high, at the side of the road. Repeatedly they hop out of the "fuzzy-wuzzy," opening and closing their wings and pecking at the old rock macadam of the hard road. They peck two or three times, then back to fancied safety. Immediately when one flies into the bush the other flies to the road. They take turns, but they keep it up. Rarely both fly down. Kinglets anywhere are fascinating, but Kinglets eating off the ground!

I drew nearer, they really did not mind. Perhaps they paused a minute longer before renewing the attack on whatever so plainly absorbed their attention to the near exclusion of everything else. I came within a few feet, four feet, three feet, still they hopped out, grabbed two or three morsels and retreated to safety. They were perfectly well aware of my presence but they were not to be so easily diverted. I stood intently watching. The explanation came in a flash: Termites!—everywhere on that hard road bed. These clever little Kinglets know a meaty morsel when they meet it—be it on the hard road bed or in their accustomed niche. An hour and a half I watched. Still they were reducing the pests with much regularity and few rests.

Friends came by, the birds did not desist for one minute though the number of witnesses drew near and increased. The feeders must have gained ounces in weight for the quantity they put away while we watched.

Observed at the end of Mountain View Road, San Rafael, California, 11:45 a. m. until 1:15 p. m., Tuesday, November 10, 1931.

Anna Margaret Smith (Mrs. Otis H.), San Anselmo, California.

Report of the President for the Year 1931

It is a pleasure to report briefly on the accomplishments of our Association during the past twelve months. Having successfully conquered a year of depression, we can look forward to a bright future.

Although one member was lost by death and twenty-four by resignation last year, our membership is now the largest in our history. The total of 154 members, of whom thirteen are Life Members and nine Honorary, constitutes a net gain of nine over last year. The wisdom of having created the student membership has been demonstrated by the affiliation of a fine group of young, enthusiastic members.

Twelve regular monthly meetings were held, with no suspension of activities during the summer vacation. The average attendance at these meetings was more than forty.

Three projects were launched during the year for the purpose of aiding beginners in Bird Study. Perhaps our greatest achievement of the year was the holding of four popular lectures on California Birds. These illustrated lectures

were open to the public without charge. The total attendance was 1221. We are greatly indebted to the four ornithologists who contributed their expert knowledge, and to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, which gave the use of their auditorium.

Another service rendered to amateurs in 1931 was the series of monthly Study Classes for beginners. These Saturday outings were commenced in October at the instigation of Mrs. H. P. Bracelin. Thanks are due her and to those members who have led the classes. These trips afield were in addition to our regular monthly outings, which have been directed very successfully by Charles A. Bryant.

We are very fortunate to have been able to resume work for Junior Audubon groups. This most valuable contribution to the furtherance of bird appreciation was undertaken for us during the past year by Mrs. C. N. Compton. The delight expressed by groups with whom this contact has been made is an evidence of its value.

Increasing public interest in birds was certainly shown by many newspaper editorials and a flood of queries and answers concerning birds in the contributors' columns of the local press. The activities of our Association have also received their share of publicity.

Under Mrs. A. B. Stephens' able direction, The Gull has continued its high standard of interesting and accurate information. A debt of gratitude is owed her for her untiring devotion to duty by the hundreds who read The Gull.

The Research Problems launched in 1930 are being carried forward. It was gratifying that three of these, namely, "Plant Zone Indicators of the Bay Region," "Bird Habitats of the Bay Region" and "An Analysis of Pellets of Barn Owls," were brought to fruition and published during the past year.

In closing, may I express sincere appreciation for the loyal support of all the officers and members in our several undertakings for 1931. I bespeak for the year ahead your continued co-operation in all our activities, especially the Spring Lecture Series, the Saturday Study Classes, the Research Projects and the Junior Work. If each of us will bring in one new member during the year, it will aid greatly in the establishing of an Association Bird Sanctuary. This is a new enterprise which I feel we should undertake during 1932. Respectfully submitted.

Brighton C. Cain, President.

Report of Field Trips for 1931

The following report covers the results of the monthly field trips taken by The Audubon Association of the Pacific.

Twelve regular monthly trips were made to localities covering the various habitats found in the San Francisco Bay Region, one trip to each of the following: Lake Merritt, McCoy Ranch and Arroyo Mocho in the Livermore Valley, University of California Campus, all in Alameda County; El Cerrito, Contra Costa County; San Andreas Lake, San Mateo County; Point Bonita and Tennessee Cove, Marin County, and Golden Gate Park, City and County of San Francisco. A special trip was taken to St. Mary's, Contra Costa County. Two trips were taken to each of the following: Ross to Fairfax, Marin County and Lake Merced, City and County of San Francisco.

A total of 180 species has been noted with an average of fifty-seven species per trip. The March trip to Point Bonita supplied the largest list, seventy-five; the October trip to Lake Merced second, with seventy-three; the November trip to Ross third with seventy-one.

Seven new species were added to the Association's "Life-list": Barrow Golden-eye, Swainson Hawk, Road-runner, Spotted Owl, Poor-will, Mockingbird, Vesper Sparrow, making a total of 231 species which have been noted by our Association on field trips.

Old acquaintances renewed: Sanderlings and Pygmy Nuthatches not on our lists since 1924; Holboell Grebes and Red-backed Sandpipers not since 1926; Long-eared Owl and Red-breasted Nuthatch not since 1928.

Attendance of members averaged twenty-six per trip. Seventy-four members attended the various trips; two members attended all the regular and special trips. The most popular trip from point of members attending was to McCoy's Ranch, Livermore, with forty-five present. January trip to Lake Merritt second with thirty-five. February trip to Burlingame third with thirty-one.

I wish to thank the members whose suggestions and co-operation have helped so much in giving pleasure and bird information on our field trips.

Chas. A. Bryant, Chairman of Field Trips.

Saturday Study Field Trip: The December Saturday afternoon trip was taken on the 19th, to Baker's Beach to study the Gulls, with Mrs. A. B. Stephens and Miss Cornelia C. Pringle as leaders. Nine members and one guest were present.

Only four species of Gulls were seen: The Glaucous-winged, Western, California and Ring-billed.

It was gratifying to the leaders that the members of the group gave their whole attention to the subject planned. The day was a pearl. At the close of the afternoon we sat in the sand and discussed gull migrations and their feeding and nesting habits. Cornelia C. Pringle.

January Field Trip was taken on Sunday, the 17th, to Lake Merritt, Oakland, with thirty-eight members and guests. The day was clear, calm and warm.

Our annual trip to Lake Merritt at this season of the year is primarily for the purpose of studying the several species of wild ducks which winter there. This season the number of individuals present on the day of our visit was far below that of previous years. Lesser Scaup, however, showed an appreciable gain over the past six years. Reports of the recent disturbances among the ducks caused by poachers probably account for the scarcity noted, especially among the species which commonly come ashore to feed. The number of species, eleven, is about the usual number present.

On account of the small number of ducks present, a census seemed hardly worth while; however, one was taken with the following result: Canvasback Duck 1406, Baldpate 332, Ruddy Duck 148, Lesser Scaup 115, Pintail 90, American Golden-eye 23, Green-winged Teal 2, Greater Scaup 2, Scurf Scoter 2, Ring-necked Duck 1, Buffle-head 1, making a total of 2122.

Mr. Cain, with a group of Boy Scouts, had visited Mosswood Park before joining our party and reported Evening Grosbeaks present. Consequently it was unanimously agreed to omit our walk through Lakeside Park, and, after luncheon, visit Mosswood Park. Three male Evening Grosbeaks were found, feeding on the ground under some live oak trees, picking at the fallen leaves. Close examination showed the leaves to be covered with scale insects which accounted for the Grosbeaks' interest in them.

A total of fifty-two species were noted as follows:

Eared Grebe
Pied-billed Grebe
Farallon Cormorant
Black-crowned Night Heron
Sparrow Hawk
California Quail
Ring-necked Pheasant
American Coot
Glaucous-winged Gull
Herring Gull
California Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Bonaparte Gull
Anna Hummingbird
Red-shafted Flicker
Downy Woodpecker
California Jay
Black Phoebe
Plain Titmouse
Bush-tit
Wren-tit
Robin
Varied Thrush
Hermit Thrush
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Pipit
Audubon Warbler
Black-throated Gray Warbler
Townsend Warbler
Brewer Blackbird
House Sparrow
Evening Grosbeak
Linnet
Willow Goldfinch
Green-backed Goldfinch
Spotted Towhee
Brown Towhee
Junco
Golden-crowned Sparrow
Nuttall Sparrow
Song Sparrow

C. A. Bryant, historian.

Audubon Notes

February Meeting will be held on Thursday evening, the 11th, at 8 o'clock, room 19, Ferry Building.

The speaker of the evening will be Mr. H. S. Swarth of the California Academy of Sciences. Subject: "A Sub-Arctic Summer." The lecture will be illustrated.

February Field Trip will be taken to San Andreas Lake on Sunday, the 14th. Meet at stage depot, Fifth near Mission Street, San Francisco, to take bus leaving at 8:55 a. m.

East Bay members should reach Ferry Building not later than 8:30, taking car up Market to Fifth Street. Bring luncheon. Bus fare, 25 cents each way. C. A. Bryant, leader.

Extra Field Trip: For the benefit of members who do not care to take a long trip, an extra trip will be taken on February 14th, to Golden Gate Park, Cliff House and Land's End. Meet at entrance to the Japanese Tea Garden at 9 a. m. Bring luncheon. Carl Smith, leader.

Saturday Study Trip will be taken on the 20th to Lake Merritt, Oakland. San Francisco members take 1 o'clock Key Route boat and Grand Avenue car on the Twenty-second Street train leaving the car at Perkins Street, where the leader, Miss Frances Payne, will meet the group.

January Meeting: The 14th annual meeting of the Association was held Thursday evening, January 14th, with fifty-five members and guests present. President B. C. Cain presiding.

The following new members were elected:

Mr. and Mrs. B. K. Dunshee and Miss Mildred Dunshee of Ross, Carter H. Johnston of Richmond, Paul Lehman of Oakland, Louis J. Henrich and E. R. Zion of San Francisco.

Officers and Directors for 1932 were elected as follows:

Dr. Joseph Grinnell.....Honorary Pres.
Brighton C. Cain.....President
Chas. A. Bryant.....1st Vice-President
Miss Cornelia C. Pringle..2d Vice-Pres.
Mrs. A. B. Stephens.....Treasurer
C. B. Lastreto.....Corresponding Secty.
Miss Christine Danz..Recording Secty.
Mrs. H. P. Bracelin.....Director
Mrs. Otis H. Smith.....Director
Mr. Robert Taylor.....Director

Field observations were reported as follows:

B. C. Cain, December 30th, Richmond, 30 or more Evening Grosbeaks.

Ed. McClintock, December 16th, East Oakland, White-throated Swift; December 24, Oakland, Allen Hummingbird.

Mrs. Otis H. Smith, December 20th, Yolanda, Marin County, thousands of Robins; December 25th, near Santa Venetia, Swainson Hawk.

F. M. Jencks, January 1st, Lakeside Park, Oakland, Mockingbird.

Mrs. A. B. Stephens, January 1st, Cliff House, Rock Wren; Chain of Lakes, Red-breasted Sapsucker.

Harold Swanton, January 8th, Oakland, Evening Grosbeak.

Mr. Bert Harwell, Past President of our Association, and now Park Naturalist in Yosemite National Park, was the speaker of the evening. Mr. Harwell's association with the birds in Yosemite has gained for him an intimate knowledge of their home life, which he described in a most pleasing way. His almost perfect imitation of bird songs always thrills his audience. The many beautiful lantern slides of Yosemite in winter completed an evening's entertainment that richly repaid those who braved the stormy evening in order to be present.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....Brighton C. Cain.....221 Thayer Bldg., Oakland
Corresponding Secretary.....C. B. Lastreto.....260 California St., San Francisco
Treasurer.....Mrs. A. B. Stephens.....1695 Filbert St., San Francisco

Monthly meeting second Thursday, 8 P. M., Room 19, Ferry Building.
Address Bulletin correspondence to Mrs. A. B. Stephens, Editor, 1695 Filbert St., San Francisco.
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Student memberships, $1.50 per year. Life memberships, $50.00
Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.